A color atlas of skin lesions

Prepared by Howard Koh, MD, and the
American Academy of Dermatology

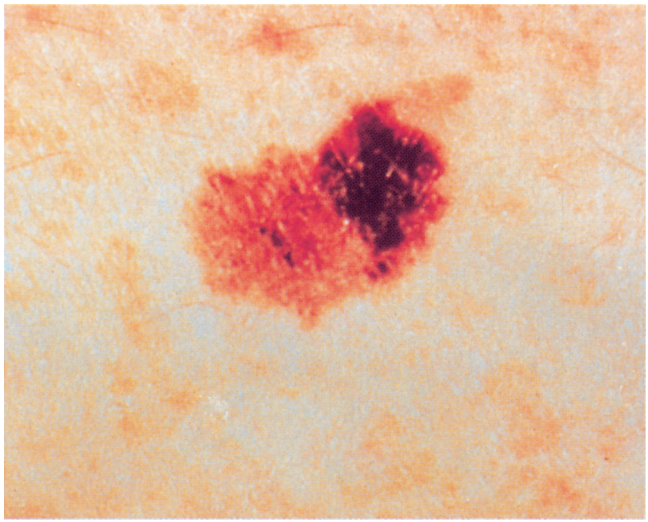

FIGURE 1: Malignant melanoma
The heterogeneous color and asymmetry of the lesion point to the diagnosis of melanoma. Particularly note the black color of the right side of the lesion. (Figures 1, 2, and 8 courtesy of the American Academy of Dermatology)

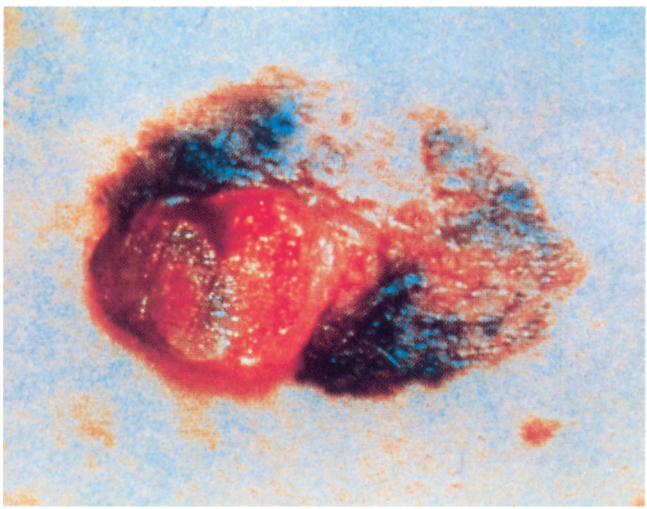

FIGURE 2: Malignant melanoma
There are several colors clearly visible in this lesion, consistent with melanoma. There are mottled black areas of the lesion, with central tumor growth that is eroded and less pigmented.

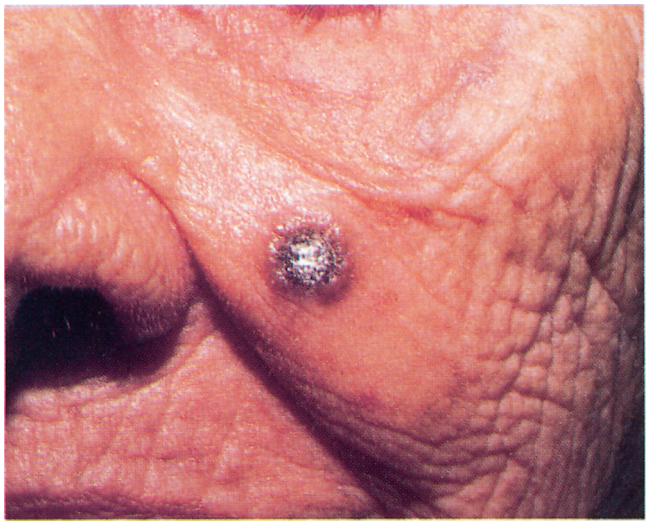

FIGURE 3: Pigmented basal cell epithelioma
While this lesion mimics melanoma, it has a slightly translucent appearance around the rim consistent with the diagnosis of basal cell cancer.

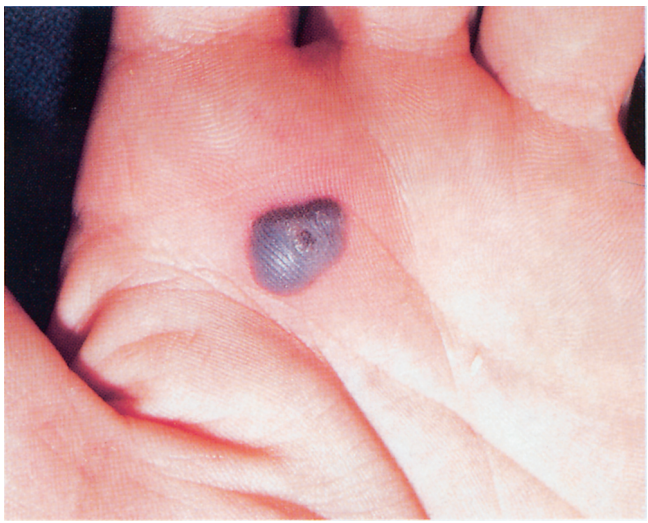

FIGURE 4: Blood blister
Although this lesion mimics melanoma, it is tense, fluid-filled, and benign. Normal skin markings are visible through much of the lesion.

FIGURE 5: Bowen's disease
This sharply demarcated, slightly scaly plaque is typical of squamous cell cancer in situ.

FIGURE 6: Basal cell carcinoma
This patient has extensive, ulcerative disease of the scalp. It is an unusual case that can be diagnosed only through biopsy and is associated with severe morbidity.

FIGURE 7: Squamous cell carcinoma
This infiltrated red plaque has central erosion and crust.

FIGURE 8: Squamous cell carcinoma
Erythematous and infiltrated lesion in a maximally sun-exposed area, with an erosive center.